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Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 38, no. 1-2

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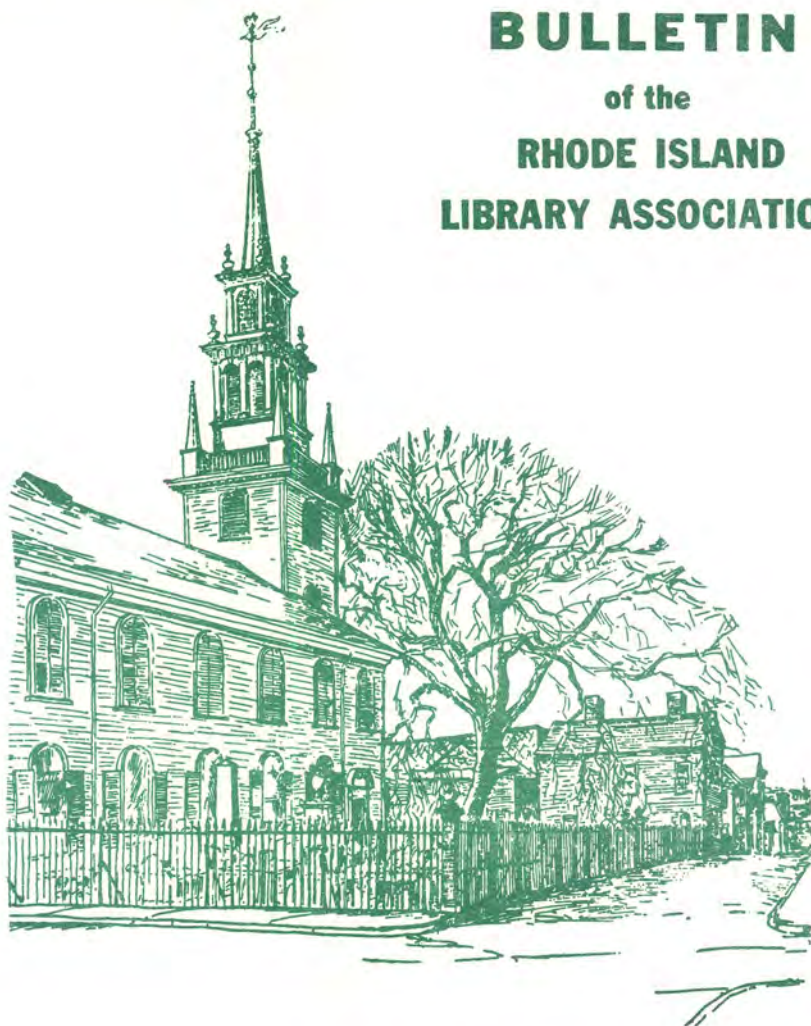
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Nov 72

BULLETIN
of the
RHODE ISLAND
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



FALL MEETING OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Thursday, October 20, 1966

PEOPLE'S LIBRARY
Aquidneck Park
Newport, Rhode Island

~ Program ~

9 - 10 Registration at People's Library

10:30 - 12 Business Meeting at the Art Association
of Newport

12:30 - 2 Luncheon at the Cliff House *

2 - 3:30 Panel Discussion

"RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES - - TWO YEARS LATER"



* Reservations must be received by Saturday, October 15th. Send reservations to Mrs. Ilona Turisi, Pawtucket Public Library, or phone Mrs. Turisi at 722-3520. The price of the meal, including tip, is \$3.25.

PANEL DISCUSSION

“Rhode Island Libraries---two years later”

JOHN A. HUMPHRY, Moderator

Librarian

Brooklyn Public Library

MRS. RUTH L. CLARKE

Librarian

Robert Beverly Hale Library, Matunuck

MISS SUSAN E. DEMERY

Librarian

Barrington Public Library

DAVID A. JONAH

Librarian

Brown University Libraries

MISS ELIZABETH G. MYER

Director

Rhode Island Department of State Library Services

MR. STUART C. SHERMAN

Librarian

Providence Public Library

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. JANICE B. MAGES
President RILA

"Yes," I agreed, in all innocence, "I think the Bulletin should have a message from the President. When is the deadline?" "Yesterday!", was the reply. This is why I greet you from the State of Maine, where I've been trying to squeeze in the last bit of vacation before the eventful year ahead. From all indications, it *will* be an eventful year for there are so many projects in the planning stage, or ready to take active form as soon as funds are available, that I can hardly wait!

On July 19th of this year, President Johnson signed into law the Library Services and Construction Act Amendments of 1966. He then remarked, in part:

"...We need to take a close look at the future of our libraries. We need to ask some serious questions. What part can libraries play in the Nation's rapidly developing communications and information-exchange networks? Computers and new information technology have brought us to the brink of dramatic changes

in library technique. As we face this information revolution, we want to be satisfied that our funds do not preserve library practices which are already obsolete."

Read any article in the library literature of today and you'll note that there *have* been dramatic changes in library techniques. Library schools are presenting these new ideas in their curriculum to the librarians of tomorrow. What was once almost sacred is now completely unnecessary as we strive for simplification. Will we in Rhode Island be ready for these new ideas? Rhode Island's libraries will not become obsolete for some of us are talking about going into data processing, about changing to up-dated classification systems, about setting up a Book Processing Center, about greater Interlibrary Cooperation...yes, even about establishing a Film Cooperative. Now these changes can't be called radical because several libraries throughout the country have gone into data processing, there are thousands of Book Processing Centers and Film Cooperatives, and classification systems are being changed every day. We are, however, on the "brink of dramatic changes" here in Rhode Island and I find it very stimulating to be a part of something that is molding the future.

BITS AND PIECES

by

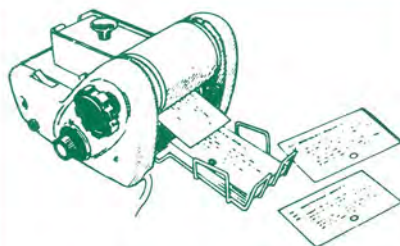
RICHARD COMBS

As the host Library for this Fall meeting the People's Library wishes from the edge of its ancient foundation that you will enjoy your stay, and that if you only learn one thing today it will be that Newport is a good town to be in. I will not go into a description of all the historical sights within walking distance of the People's Library, but there are a number of them. A small folder available at the charge desk should prove helpful. The Library itself is located just off Bellevue Avenue, which is one of the streets radiating out from Washington Square. Driving south on Bellevue you will pass the Redwood Library, on your left, and a block or so farther on you will come to a large shopping center. The street at the end of the shopping center is Jones. Turn right on Jones. The Street is one block long. The People's Library is at the end of the street. After registering at the Library and before attending the business meeting you may want to look over the town. The Redwood Library, which most of you know about, even if you are not familiar with it, stands just north of the Art Association. Mr. Donald Gibbs, the Librarian of the Redwood, will be more than happy to have members of the R.I.L.A. stop by. Touro Synagogue is not too far away, and Trinity Church is also nearby. The old Stone Tower is in Touro Park which is just across the avenue from the Art Association.

The Bulletin, with its emphasis on co-operation, indicates the way things are tending this year. The moderator for the day's panel discussion is John Humphry, whose *Library Cooperation* (Brown, 1963) established the guidelines around which our present system

has developed. Mr. Humphry is the Librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Having just recently arrived on these shores I find the environment stimulating. There are even times when it is a bit too stimulating. But as one of the Trustees said: "If it were an easy job, anyone could do it." Librarianship is coming into its own as never before. Increased demands from the public have brought about more sophisticated techniques within the library. In fact, increased salaries and improved working conditions make the prospects seem brighter than ever before. There may even be a chance for the People's Librarian to find that Children's Librarian (free ad!) it has been seeking.



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LOOKING FORWARD

by
Elizabeth G. Myer

Fiscal 1967, which began July 1, 1966, will be a year of concentrated planning. Building closer relationships among types of libraries will be a prime goal. The movement in this direction was given impetus by the A.L.A. Presidential Address of 1962 and by the A.L.A. Conference within a Conference of 1963. Public librarians especially have had more contact with recent State library developments, and will, no doubt, assume the lead in developing the cooperation now made possible by the Library Services and Construction Act Amendments of 1966.

Fortunately the new L.S.C.A. Amendments of 1966 open the way for planning effective cooperation. Extracted are two significant quotations:

"...plans for establishing and maintaining local, regional, State or interstate cooperative networks of libraries."

"State Plans...provide policies and objectives for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and special information centers for improved services of a supplementary nature to the special clientele served by each type of library or center."

Fortunately, too, the library law passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1964 was sufficiently far-sighted to authorize the Department of State Library Services to work effectively toward cooperation. It is our earnest hope and expectation that all librarians in the State will realize their involvement, and will contribute to the forward momentum.

Today's users of libraries are so sophisticated that they expect to draw upon all kinds of libraries, and will use many libraries to fill their information and book needs. We must indeed pool our strengths to the utmost, and tie them together in a working relationship, to respond to these users.

Special attention will, obviously, be given to students' needs. Today's students are not stereotyped, but come in a variety and range of age, needs, and interests. Besides those of school age, there are those in Headstart. There are preschoolers. There are thousands of adults engaged in the impressive pursuit of "Continuing Education". In addition, Rhode Island has a tremendous number of graduate and undergraduate students who are commuting and who are therefore making use of local library resources. A conservative estimation, based upon the Department's recent questionnaire, reveals that some twenty thousand are of this category; matriculating at Rhode Island institutions daily, and, upon returning home, relying upon local library resources for evening study. Smooth coordination of the State's total resources will supply them with the tools of learning. Better communication, more exchange of professional "know-how", speedier transmission of information and materials - will occur through a closer relationship of various types of libraries. Isolated units cannot achieve this service, and cannot afford to attempt it.

Let's meet the future with open minds, grasping this opportunity for a dynamic service that departs from the past and is keyed to the future. Rhode Island was the first State to pass State legislation designed to harmonize with the

Library Services and Construction Act of 1964. It was the first State to pass and have signed by the Governor the Interstate Library Compact in 1963. Continuing in this "new tradition", Rhode Island should be, and is, developing sound plans for cooperation that can bring within the reach of all its citizens quality library service. In this spirit, with energy and resolution, we look forward eagerly into the future.

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UNIFIED SYSTEM SPREADS LIBRARY RESOURCES

by

Stuart C. Sherman

Thousands of book and information

transactions are now flowing freely between the state's public libraries as Rhode Islanders learn to use the Unified System of Public Library Services. Readers and libraries now draw upon the total library resources of the state through the two-year old system administered by the Department of State Library Services.

One of the features of the unified system is the Providence Public Library. Although its resources of more than a half-million volumes have always been available to Rhode Island residents, the new system brings these resources to readers through their local libraries.

PRINCIPAL AND REGIONAL ROLES

Within the system, the Providence Public Library functions both as the Principal Public Library for the entire state, and as a Regional Library Center for twenty-three local libraries in seven cities in the Greater Providence area. Barrington and Westerly libraries also function as Regional Library Centers in their sections of the state, and the Department of State Library Services functions as a center for the northern and western regions of the state.

As a "Principal", the Providence library supports the other regional centers with books and information and it also functions as the state's reference and research center. In addition, it is a resource center for specialized types of library services such as business and technical information. Its staff provides other librarians with professional advisory services.

As a "Regional", the Providence library serves its neighboring libraries almost as it does its own eight bran-

ches. A special "hot-line" links these libraries for rapid telephone transmission. All information requests are handled by professional librarians and the Circulation Department staff mails books which are requested. An experimental pick-up and delivery system will be tried this year to speed up book distribution.

EXPANDING RESOURCES

With the growing demand upon its resources, an essential objective of the state wide program has been to expand the collections of the Providence Public Library. A strong central book collection is an essential means of strengthening local libraries. This is being done with financial assistance from the Department of State Library Services. A major resource of the Providence library is "The Rhode Island Index". This is a collection of information and illustrations on cards pertaining to all aspects of Rhode Island history. It has been built over a period of sixty years, contains a half million references and is the most complete source of information on Rhode Island persons and events to be found.

The Business-Industry-Science Department is also being expanded because of the key role it plays in the State's economy. Earlier this year, an "Information Unlimited" luncheon was sponsored by the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce to bring these resources more dramatically before the business community. The gathering brought three hundred and twenty-five business leaders to the Sheraton Biltmore ballroom for a presentation by the library's staff. Similar promotion is planned for other communities in the State.

WORKSHOPS SPREAD KNOW-HOW

The staff of the Providence Public Library provides workshops on various aspects of librarianship to enable librarians to draw from each other's experience. Workshop topics include reference services, periodical holdings, microfilm holdings, display methods, book selection, book repair and cataloging. Other workshops are being planned on teenage book selection, children's services and business services. Teams of librarians are also available to evaluate and recommend solutions regarding local library problems.

In addition to these self-help workshops, the Providence Public Library plans to share its recent experience in reaching the unreached. The "Project Books" program, which has been conducted with success in three of the Providence library's branches, offers valuable experiences for other libraries which desire to assist the less privileged citizens of their areas.

SPEEDING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION

The library constantly seeks ways to speed the flow of information and materials to readers throughout the state. Now being considered is a teletype system between the State's regional libraries. This is a move which would put them in touch with the State's leading industries and library resources of other states. Another installation being expanded is the library's data processing facilities. This equipment will provide a new centralized book processing service and, with a state subsidy provided by the Department of State Library Services, reduce the cost of ordering and cataloging for local libraries.

Other service expansions include the circulation of microfilm and microfilm readers, a Film Festival and rotating book collections on topics such as large print books for low vision readers and special texts for persons studying for high school equivalency. Book lists are being circulated to keep everyone informed of new acquisitions.

This state-wide library program administered by the Department of State Library Services has provided greatly improved library resources and services which cannot help but benefit the economic and cultural development of the citizens of the State.

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BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM: SPECIAL RESEARCH CENTER IN THE STATEWIDE LIBRARY PROGRAM

by

CHARLES C. WADDINGTON
Assistant Librarian

The University Library System includes the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, the Join Hay Library, the Biological Sciences Library, the Physical Sciences Library, the Pembroke College Library, and the Annmary Brown Memorial. The total number of accessioned items in the Library System is now well over 1,500,000. This total number comprises bound volumes, microfilms, microprints, maps, manu-

scripts, broadsides, prints and photostats, pieces of sheet music, and phonograph records. The number of books added each year is about 40,000.

During the academic year 1965/66, borrowers' cards had been granted to more than 600 individuals, including resident alumni, members of the faculty and administration of the colleges and universities located in Rhode Island;

teachers, ministers, lawyers and research workers having a need to use our resources. Between January 1st and July 1st 1966, the number of students using the Library under the referral plan was 1148.

In addition to the statistics cited above, the Library loaned, on interlibrary loan, to colleges and universities in Rhode Island, 123 volumes and supplied photocopies in 94 cases. We loaned, on interlibrary loan, one volume to a high school and, in addition, provided two items in photocopy. Rhode Island hospitals and medical societies borrowed 156 volumes and received 197 additional items in photocopy. Offices of the Federal Government, located in Rhode Island, borrowed 12 volumes on interlibrary loan and received 83 items in photocopies. Three volumes were loaned for the use of State Government and one item was supplied in photocopy.

The Brown University Library has worked out careful operating methods with the Department of State Library Services in order to implement the use of its Library as a Special Research Center.

The following quotation explains this:

"In the Statewide Library Program an individual will start by using his community library; will then if necessary be referred to his regional library. If he requires special resources, he may then be referred to the principal public li-

brary and thereafter to the university research center. Notes of referral admit a patron to the next library of resource. A regional library may, however, determine the availability of material by telephone and directly refer a patron to Brown University."

Over the years, Brown has had a tradition of making its services available to students from outside the Brown community, whether they had a letter of referral or not. The number of such students has now become so great that Brown cannot serve its own community well if a system of referrals is not put into effect. Therefore, a similar but slightly more complex set of regulations, as above, should be followed by students:

1. No Junior High School students should be referred. They should be able to find materials in their local community libraries, their regional libraries, or as a referred source, the Providence Public Library.
2. High School students should use the method of referral outlined in the operating methods published by the Department of State Library Services quoted above. It is expected that they will find many materials in their own high school library; in their local community library; in their regional library; or be referred after taking these steps to the Providence Public Library which will refer them to Brown. (If a regional library has ascertained by telephone that material is not available at the Providence Public Library, the regional librarian may refer the student to Brown with a proper letter.)

3. College students may follow the route outlined for high school students or may obtain a letter of referral from their college librarians which shows that they have inquired first at the Providence Public Library.
4. Books and periodicals made available to students who present letters of referral are to be used only in the reading rooms of the Library and are not loaned for use outside the Library. Books and periodicals paged for the use of non-Brown students will, on request, be held at the circulation desk for three days. After three days if they have not been used, the volumes will be returned to the stacks.
5. Students observed making unauthorized use of the Library will be barred from making use of the Brown University Library in the future.
6. These rules will be suspended during Brown vacations, at which time outside students will be permitted to use the Library without letters of referral.

The authority or signature on the patron's referral note should be that of the librarian, or his deputy, of the Providence Public Library; or from the Director or Deputy Director of the Department of State Library Services; or from a Regional librarian, or from a college librarian. The note should in addition to its signature include the date, a specific as possible identification of the material to be used, and the approximate length of time the research will take. It also

should clearly state that the other libraries in the chain of referral libraries have actually been consulted without results. No special form is needed, although a library may devise and use one.

The above referral system makes books and periodicals available to patrons from all of Rhode Island for use in the reading rooms of the Library and are not loaned for use outside the Library. However, the University has always made a practice of offering its services to various categories of Rhode Island residents. Professional people, clergy, Rhode Island business concerns, faculty members of Rhode Island colleges and universities may secure borrowing privileges with a minimum of formalities, e.g. an interview with the Chief Circulation Librarian or a letter of introduction. Others having bona-fide research problems may make application to borrow.

All special collections in the library system are non-circulating and are not covered by the above referral practices. These collections are available for use within the John Hay and Rockefeller Libraries to patrons with bona-fide research problems. The use of Special Collections will be governed by the same rules in force for the Brown community.

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF R.I.L.A.
on the ALA Council Meetings of July 1966

Jewel Drickamer, ALA Councilor

Reports of seventeen committees were presented and accepted. A brief summary of the most significant actions follows. (No printed final version has reached this councilor and thus there may be differing phrases in a further report.)

Responding to a membership request for "positive action" in support of "civil rights" laws, the following received a favorable vote.

RESOLVED, That the Executive Board shall suspend from membership in the Association any member who has been found by competent governmental authority to have violated any federal, state or local

civil rights law, such suspension to continue until such time as the Executive Board has been satisfied that the member is in full compliance with the law.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Executive Board forward signed complaints involving alleged illegal discrimination by libraries to appropriate federal, state and local agencies for investigation and action after having satisfied itself that such complaints are not part of a program of harassment.

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The application of the Alabama Library Association for chapter status in ALA was accepted. All state and regional associations are now chapters of ALA.

A *Publishing Board* was established. This Publishing Board "shall establish policies with the approval of the Executive Board and the benefit of counsel from other bodies of the Association, shall advise and assist all units of the Association in their publishing activities, and shall give counsel and guidance on the administration of the Publishing Department."

A Joint Committee in National Library and Information Systems (CONLIS) has been set up by ALA.

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award was established, an award to be made

annually to an American publisher "for a (children's - pre-nursery to 8th grade) book considered to be most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language, in a foreign country, and subsequently published in the United States.

Matters such as the evaluation of National Library Week, copyright issues, the work of the relatively new ALA Office for Research and Development reported on as continuing with activities with no definitive action taken at this conference.

NOTE: The ALA Midwinter meeting will be held in New Orleans.

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